

Urban District Council of Shoreham-by-Sea.

R.H.Wilshaw, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

10 Bulkington Avenue,
Worthing.

5th November, 1940.

Gentlemen,

Annual Report, 1939.

Acting on the instructions contained in Circular 2067, in which it states that reports should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year, especially any matters arising from or connected with the war, outbreaks of infectious disease, and measures for maternity and child welfare, together with any exceptional administrative measures taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health, I beg to make the following observations.

Statistics 1939.

| | Shoreham-by-Sea | England & Wales. |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... | 16.2 | 15.0 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population ... | 9.7 | 12.1 |
| Corrected Death Rate ... | 8.3 | |
| Infantile Mortality Rate per 4,000 Births. ... | 37 | 50 |

The population as given by the Registrar General on which the Birth Rate is calculated is 11,570, and that on which the Death Rate is calculated is 12,190. The factor for correction is 0.86, which gives a corrected death rate of 8.3.

Evacuation.

On the outbreak of war approximately 1131 children and mothers were evacuated to Shoreham from vulnerable areas. During the last three months of the year the presence of these children caused no appreciable increase in the incidence of infectious disease. In September a Sick Bay was established at Evelyn House for the reception of sick evacuee children. Up to the end of the year 44 such children received treatment.

Infectious Disease.

During the year the following cases of infectious disease amongst residents in the town were notified :

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|----------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | { 13 in 1938 } |
| Diphtheria | 3 | { 4 " " } |
| Typhoid Fever | 1 | { Nil " " } |
| Pneumonia | 14 | { 7 " " } |
| Tuberculosis | 11 | { 17 " " } |
| Chickenpox | 9 | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 8 | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 3 | |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis | 1 | |
| Erysipelas | 2 | |
| Dysentery | 2 | |

Housing.

No. of new houses erected during 1939:

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| By Private Enterprise | 97 |
| By Local Authority | 0 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) | 409 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|---|------|
| No. of Inspections made for the purpose | 1312 |
|---|------|

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 0 |
|---|---|

Bacteriological Samples of Milk.

The following samples of milk were taken :-

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Tuberculin Tested | 14 (10 complied with standard) |
| Ordinary | 3 (All three samples satisfied the requirements of the Methylene Blue Test, but one sample failed on the Coli Test) |

Water.

Six samples of water from the town main were examined during the year, these being satisfactory with the exception of one sample with a bacterial count of 140 per c.c. This was probably due to the use of an anti-splash filter, a repeat sample being found satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection.

I have had a complete report from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Thurman, as in former years, but as this is not required I do not think it is necessary to amplify any further beyond stating that 2335 visits and inspections were made as compared with 4176 in 1938.

Staff.

The post of Additional Sanitary Inspector remained vacant throughout the year but was filled early in 1940 by the appointment of Mr. Llewellyn.

Records.

All records, including statistics supplied by the Registrar General, are being carefully preserved in order that after the termination of the war a report can be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year, so that annual records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) R.H.WILSHAW.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Shoreham-by-Sea Urban District Council.